

## Ealing Trinity Circuit

### Summer Worship Series 2017

based on 'God Has a Dream – A Vision of Hope for our Time' by Desmond Tutu

SS17/6

27 August

In the Fullness of Time

#### Call to Worship:

The I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

'See the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them;

he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.' (Revelation 21: 1-4)

**Hymn:** StF 55 Immortal, invisible, God only wise

#### Prayers of Approach and Confession; Assurance:

Gracious God, how often have we sung words such as these, acknowledging your infinite power and wisdom. How regularly have we praised you for your overwhelming goodness to us. How many times have we given you thanks for sending your Son into the world to redeem us.

And yet, how frequently also have we limited you in our thinking, ascribing to you no more than human powers, expecting too little.

This morning, we come to renew our faith in your divine plan; to open our minds and hearts to your holy purposes; to wonder at your never-ceasing care for your children.

We praise you; we worship you; we magnify your name;

we acknowledge you to be the Lord of all infinity.

Forgive us when we forget the wonders that have been shown to us in your creation;

the love that has cascaded down to us from your hands;

the promise you have given of eternal life in your safe-keeping.

Help us to renew our trust in you;

restore in us confidence and hope;

and make clear to us signs of your kingdom here on earth. **Amen.**

And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.'" (Revelation 21: 5)

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn:** StF 464 God it was who said to Abraham

**Scripture:**

Hebrews 11: 1-16 Living by faith

Psalm 90 StF 896

Matthew 24: 32-44 The Day and Hour Unknown

**Hymn:** StF 491 As servants working an estate

**Reflection: In the Fullness of Time**

From p113 'One of my favourite cartoons . . . ' to p117 ' . . . their soul yearned for it.'

**Hymn:** StF 746 For all the saints who showed your love

**Prayers of Intercession**

God of care and compassion, we bring our prayers of intercession, safe in the knowledge that you will hear us and respond.

We pray for those who have yet to hear the Good News that Jesus Christ died for each one of them. We pray for all those who preach your word, and name your Name, and for those who write and translate to bring the Scriptures to all who will listen.

We pray for those who have heard the Good News, but have refused to allow it into their hearts or minds. We pray for all who communicate your message in new ways and through new media, that more of your people may have access to your truths.

We pray for those who seek to deny the Good News, and discredit those who profess the faith. We pray for all who promote religious tolerance and inter-faith understanding and goodwill, and for the insights that other faiths can offer to our Christian discipleship.

We pray for those who are prevented from practising their faith, or forbidden to spread the Good News; for those who must worship in secret, or suffer discrimination in the communities in which they live. We pray that they will feel you near them in their struggles, and take comfort.

We pray for those who have died, especially those whose example brought us to faith; those who have shown us glimpses of your heavenly kingdom. Bring us to a new understanding of your saving grace, and grant that we may share in the richness of the new Jerusalem.

We ask these prayers in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

**Offertory**

**Hymn:** StF 736 In heavenly love abiding

**Blessing & Sending Out:**

Walk confidently with the Lord in this life;  
be active in his service;  
grow more like Christ as each day passes;  
and look with hope to the future.

And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be with us and remain with us always. **Amen.**